

R-1380-1-PR
February 1977

Damage Probability Computer for Point Targets with P and Q Vulnerability Numbers

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A report prepared for
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE PROJECT RAND



Report Documentation Page				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to a penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.					
1. REPORT DATE FEB 1977		2. REPORT TYPE		3. DATES COVERED 00-00-1977 to 00-00-1977	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Damage Probability Computer for Point Targets with P and Q Vulnerability Numbers				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Rand Corporation, Project Air Force, 1776 Main Street, PO Box 2138, Santa Monica, CA, 90407-2138				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT Same as Report (SAR)	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 4	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified			

TO THE USER

The Damage Probability Computer for Point Targets with P and Q Vulnerability Numbers—first issued in February 1974 and modified in February 1977—is designed to aid military analysts and planners in making quick estimates of the expected outcomes of attacks against overpressure-sensitive targets (PVNs) and dynamic-pressure-sensitive targets (QVNs). It was prepared under the Project RAND task entitled "Future Strategic Aerospace Force Requirements."

Inputs to the computer are the target vulnerability number (VN), the warhead yield, and the warhead delivery CEP. The damage probability calculation is based on the sigma-20 damage function for PVNs, and on the sigma-30 damage function for QVNs, as defined in the *Physical Vulnerability Handbook—Nuclear Weapons* (U), Defense Intelligence Agency, AP-550-1-2-69-INT (Confidential). The *Handbook* also provides the warhead-effects data used to calibrate weapon radius as a function of yield and adjusted VN. The "optimal" air-burst results obtained with the computer approximate the highest probability of blast damage achievable without regard to other effects such as cratering, ground shock, and fallout. Users should be aware that expected outcomes obtained using the calculator could be grossly in error owing to uncertainties in bomb yield, bomb delivery accuracy, height of burst, target location, and target vulnerability, none of which are accounted for here.

This calculator is a companion to Rand report R-1168-PR* and its supplements, R-1168/1-PR and R-1820-PR, which contain tables of damage probability computed as a function of weapon yield and delivery accuracy, for selected PVNs and QVNs associated with military targets. R-1168-PR provides an interactive computing program for printing damage probability tables for other combinations of input parameters. The program also calculates damage probabilities with an offset-aim-point option for both point targets and circular area targets.

The calculator includes scales giving the minimum height of burst for negligible early (local) radiation fallout, and the maximum fireball radius, both as a function of yield. Scales derived from the DIA *Handbook*, relating peak overpressure or peak dynamic pressure in lb/sq in. (psi) to adjusted VNs, are also included. For convenience the psi values are calibrated to the adjusted VN (Ground Burst) scales. The same calibrations would apply also to the Air Burst scales. While the overpressure and dynamic pressure scales are useful to determine psi at the weapon radius given the adjusted VN, it is not valid to use psi values as inputs to the calculator in lieu of adjusted VNs except for K-factor = 0, or yield = 20 KT, or unless the specified target psi hardening is explicitly identified with a particular yield—thus implying a previous K-factor adjustment. The foregoing is a consequence of the fact that the K-factor adjustment of a VN takes into account the yield-dependent response of a target. The psi value "equivalent" to a VN can vary over a wide range according to the K-factor and the weapon yield. For example, if the VN is 36P6, the overpressure at the weapon radius is 410 psi using a 1-MT weapon, or 990 psi using a 10-KT weapon. (The previously issued Rand Bomb Damage Effect Computer (1958, 1960, 1964) employs the sigma-0 damage function and uses as inputs yield, CEP, and peak overpressure at the target.)

* D. C. Kephart, *Some Aids for Estimating Damage Probabilities in Attacks Against Targets with P and Q Vulnerability Numbers*, The Rand Corporation, R-1168-PR, March 1973 (For Official Use Only).



